



Greater North Texas Orchid Society

<http://www.gntos.org>

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December 2006

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Linda Horton
PAST PRESIDENT

December—Its Pot-Luck and Auction Time!

Our December meeting will be held on December 1st, 2006. The meeting consist of a Pot Luck Dinner and our Annual Auction... show your culinary skills and bring your wallets full!

Its always a fun event... a great opportunity to acquire plants and other orchid related items from other members in a fun way, and also contributing to the society... hope to see you all there.

Dues are due! On the back of the newsletter, you can print the form for 2007 membership. Also, you can download the membership renewal form at <http://www.gntos.org>

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Greater North Texas Orchid Society

The GNTOS was formed in 1954 as a result of the amalgamation of the Dallas Orchid Society and the North Texas Orchid Society. The new organization was formed as a nucleus for a larger an potentially greater Society with an enthusiastic membership. On March 19, 1954, they were issued a charter by the AOS as the Greater North Texas Orchid Society

Meeting Information

Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Texas A&M Extension Campus Education Building, 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX. The doors open at 6:30 pm for set up followed by mingling and meeting / program.

Newsletter

Members are encouraged to submit articles, information, or suggestions for publication in our Newsletter. Send submissions to the editor via email at: manuel.aybar@verizon.net or by mail to Manuel Aybar, 2330 Saharah dr, Garland, TX 75044

President's Message by Linda Horton

Wow, what a fast two years! I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support and patience during my tenure.

What a great bunch of folks you are. I couldn't have done the job without the help I received. I especially wish to thank Robert Marsh for providing such excellent speakers, Kathy Halverson for her knowledge and experience as treasurer and Suzanne Williamson for her excellent job as secretary. Manny Aybar took a tremendous weight off my shoulders when he took over the newsletter and Hilda and her helpers were always there with the goodies. And thank you to Jean Whiting for taking

over at the snoopers table. Thanks to all.

Dust off those recipes, December is our Christmas pot luck and auction. Invite your friends and anyone else who might be interested (and bring your wallets). Its always such a fun time. Also, its time to renew your membership. If you cannot make it to the meeting, just drop a check in the mail to Kathy Halverson - \$20.00 single, \$30.00 household. Be sure to let us know of any changes in address or email etc.

Linda

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER By Nancy Cropp

- Two plants entered for consideration, three awards given:
 - Potinara (provisional/unregistered) 'Lauren Bradham' (Pot. Satoru Toshima x Blc. Lucky 'Amy') HCC 77 points, owner: Bruce Bradham, Arlington, TX
 - Cirr. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' (rothschildianum x longissimum) FCC 94 points AND CCE 95 points, owner: Judy Cook, MD, Gunter, TX
 - Jim Williams' elevation from Probationary status to Accredited Judge was approved at the Fall AOS Trustees Meetings in St. Louis.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Glenda McIntosh

Subfamily: Epidendriodeae

Tribe: Epidendreae

Subtribe: Pleurothallidinae

Genus: Dresslerella Luer

Species: *pilosissima* (Schltr.) Luer

Pronunciation: dress-ler-EL-lah pye-low-SIS-ee-mah

Meaning of name: The genus name honors Dr. Robert L. Dressler, a renowned taxonomist and orchidist. The genus name taken from the Latin adjective *pilosissimus* refers to the extreme hairiness of all parts of the plant and bloom.

Synonyms: *Pleurothallis pilosissima*, *Restrepia pilosissima*, and *Restrepiella pilosissima*.

Habitat: This species is a native of Costa Rica growing epiphytically in cool, montane, cloud forests on bare, vertical tree trunks. Although it grows in colonies where it has become established it is an uncommon plant in its native habitat.

Taxonomy: This genus was established by Carlyle Luer in 1970 as a segregate of *Pleurothallis*. The genus *Dresslerella* differs from *Pleurothallis* by its characteristic pubescent leaves and stem sheaths, and the four pollinia that are comprised of two large and two small ones. There are eight dwarf species growing from Nicaragua south to Peru. There are only two *Dresslerella* species that have densely-long pubescent leaves, and long-pubescent, widely spaced flowers. They are the Costa Rican *D. pilosissima* and the Andean *D. hirsutissima*.

Description: There has been only one AOS award given to this species. It was a JC to 'Eichenfels' on June 16, 1982. The description is so exceptional that I choose to repeat it here. "One flower and two buds on one inflorescence; this fascinating plant, after much argument, cannot be awarded a CBR or a CHM and still do it credit as these awards now stand; CBR is not sufficient recognition, yet flower quality does not lend itself to our usual horticultural evaluation; nevertheless, the plant is unusual and distinctive; pendulous deep green lanceolate leaves, linear, curving stem sheathed in brown bracts with dark green inflated tips and maroon pleurothallid-tribe flowers all densely clothed in long white hairs; hairs 2-4 mm long on the leaf and glisten on both surfaces as the plant is turned in the light, the upper surface of the leaf is covered with distinct papillae projecting from the surface; hairs on flower shorter, except for longer ones clothing the ovary; flowers green with dense maroon spotting and veining; plant as a whole, a remarkable, miniature orchid. Natural spread of flowers 1.9 cm vertical, 0.5 cm horizontal; dorsal sepal 0.4 cm wide, 1.0 cm long; petals 0.2 cm wide; no measurements given for the lateral sepals or lip."

Ann Jesup, one of the owners of the awarded *D. pilosissima* "Eichenfels" wrote an article about the plant for *The American Orchid Society Bulletin*, April 1983. She says that the roots are the only part of the plant that is not hairy; the navicular-form (boat-shaped) lip is maroon colored on the inside, greenish-cream spotted with maroon outside and covered with hairs up to one-quarter-inch long, and the flower is displayed prominently atop the leaves. The leaves measure 8 cm long and dangle gracefully from arching, hair- and wart-covered stems like a lady's hand as she extends it to be kissed. The leaves are both thick and heavy with a texture both rough and smooth; all surfaces covered with what looks to be green gooseflesh, and shine with a luster as if molded of bottle-green glass. Above all this sprouts a pelt of clear, silky, "guard hairs" up to 4 mm long, which glisten as they catch the light.

Ann also says that growing this plant is rather difficult and requires constant care and observation, but, even so, only one in four leaves reach maturity. This species could be grown in small pots containing a light airy medium or mounted on hanging plaques, but Ann Jesup used a tall container and positioned her plant high in it. The bottom half of the glazed, non-porous container was filled with marble chips, and the upper half with a mixture of fine fir bark, fine-grade Turface (expanded clay), aquarium gravel and charcoal. Then the plant was mounted 1" below the pot rim, and the whole was top-dressed with a small-growing moss. The plant grows in her cold house, which is 50 degrees F at night and 55 degrees F daytime during cool weather, and the lowest temperature that she can keep it during warm periods. All pleurothallid plants receive partial shade.

For anyone trying to grow this species is sure to provide intermediate conditions, with moist moving air. The growing medium should be damp, never wet. This requires careful watering all year long.



GNTOS Meeting Minutes

GNTOS MINUTES

Friday, November 3, 2006

President, Linda Horton, called the meeting to order.

Carole Ann Taggart-Fagan introduced our guests, James Lin of Richardson and Judy McGee of Dallas, and welcomed new member Barbara McNamee of Garland.

There were no additions or corrections to the October minutes and they were approved as printed in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Kathy Halverson, Chairperson for the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee had met and selected the following slate of officers for 2007:

President – Tom McIntosh
 Vice President – Jim Williams
 Secretary – Suzanne Williamson
 Treasurer – Kathy Halverson
 SWORGA Rep. – Manny Aybar

Linda asked for nominations from the floor, and there were none. The motion was made and seconded that nominations are now closed. Motion carried. We will vote on the slate of officers at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Linda announced that we are accepting dues for next year and would like to have everyone pay their dues as soon as possible. Please let her know if you have a change of address or a change in your email address for the 2007 Membership Directory.

Next month we will have our semi-annual pot luck dinner and auction. Linda reminded the members to bring plants or other orchid related items they want to donate to be auctioned, and she reported that Jerry Brandenburg will again serve as Auctioneer.

We **WILL NOT** have the plant table, snooper's table or a raffle in December.

Linda announced that Hank Horton will be the Chair-

person for the GNTOS orchid show in October, 2007 and Bobby Dillard will assist him. An exact date and theme will be announced later.

Hilda Kicinski said she would have a sign-up sheet on the refreshment table during the break for everyone to sign up for the dish they plan to bring to the pot luck dinner in December, and she thanked everyone for the refreshments provided this evening. Robert Marsh introduced our speaker, James Rose, Owner and Manager of Cal-Orchid, Inc. in Santa Barbara, CA. He presented a program on reed stem Epidendrums.

BREAK

Emily Quinn announced the winners of the plant table:

1st – Blue Ribbon – Slc. India Rose Sherwood 'Kulani' – The Hortons
 2nd – Red Ribbon – Blc. Glenn Maidment 'Aranbeem' – Jean Whiting
 3rd – White Ribbon – Lc. American Velvet – Khan Tran
 Species of the Month – Onc. papilio – The Hefners
 Tri-Color Award – Pot. Hawaiian Charisma 'Hawaii' – The Cawlfilds

RAFFLE

Thanks to Jean Whiting for donating two plants to the raffle table this evening.

Linda announced that Ruth Wright is at home and she will be calling tomorrow to check on her.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
 Suzanne Williamson
 Secretary

FCC AWARDED AT THE DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

REFRESHMENTS

By Hilda



December is Pot Luck Time! Bring a dish to share with your fellow orchid growers Thanks for all the support this year with the refreshments table.
Hilda



The pictures above and bottom left is from the FCC awarded in November of 2006 at the Dallas Judging Center (DJC) to Cirr. Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry' (rothschildianum x longissimum) FCC 94 points AND CCE 95 points, owner: Judy Cook, MD, Gunter, TX... congratulations!

GNTOS Members are encouraged to attend the DJC where they can observe how the judging is done and also learn a lot more in dept about what makes an orchid an awardable one, etc... who knows, you might even be an orchid judge in the making!

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Halverson

Treasurer's Report: Oct. 2006		
Dated: 10-12-06		
Beginning Balance: \$4373.62		
	Income	Expenses
Dues		
Hospitality		
Raffle	\$64.00	
Rent		\$120.00
Snoopers	\$108.00	\$97.20
Speakers Fee/Honorarium		Bill Mathis \$150.00
Speakers Air Fare/Travel		Bill Mathis \$183.22
Miscellaneous: Library book		\$25.00
Donations		
Special Sales		
SWROGA Dues		
Auction		
DFW AOS Show: Website		\$8.97
Subtotals:	\$172.00	\$584.39
Ending Balance: \$3961.23		

Treasurer's Report: Nov. 2006		
Dated: 11-13-06		
Beginning Balance: \$3961.23		
	Income	Expenses
Dues	\$20.00	
Hospitality		
Raffle	\$102.00	Will get cost at Dec mtg.
Rent		\$120.00
Snoopers	\$170.00	\$139.50
Speakers Fee/Honorarium		
Speakers Air Fare/Travel		James Rose \$225.00
Miscellaneous:		Out of town Society exhibit 24.77 Stamps 7.80
Donations		
Special Sales		
SWROGA Dues		
Auction		
Subtotals:	\$292.00	\$517.07
Ending Balance: \$3736.16		

Ask The Plant Groom™ by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom™

"Ask The Plant Groom™" by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom™
For: QA1092

We want to plant some mums this year. It's our first attempt and we want it to be a success. What do you advise? Thanks. – R. H.

Here's my suggestions for starting garden mums successfully in Texas gardens:

- Select a location receiving morning (full) sun with shade in the afternoon
- Purchase compact selections with tight flower buds
- Plant in elevated well improved beds at soil ball depth
- Water thoroughly
- Mulch 3-4" deep with your favorite "mulch"

After flower buds fade in the fall you may snip them off with shears, bypass pruner, sharp knife or other hand-pruning tool. This activity is also known as "dead heading".

This is not a "required" activity for growing garden mums. It is a clean up or tidy up activity.

Once our winter season hits and freezes the top growth I'd remove the dead and dried remaining stems. Keep your plant's crown well mulched through the winter. Check for moisture and apply as needed to prevent soil ball or root system from becoming dry. Garden mums will not do well in "wet" growing conditions. This is especially true during the dormant season.

As new growth begins in the spring fertilize if desired with your favorite fertilizer according to label directions, supply water when needed and maintain your planting's mulch. Folks often have great results with granular "Rose Fertilizers". Sidebar note: If you want to grow great roses and never fertilize then plant Earth Kind Roses.

When growth reaches 1' pinch back approximately 25%. Continue this activity monthly until the 1st of July. This activity should produce compact plants loaded with buds for fall bloom. If more open plantings that bloom earlier in the year are desired do not follow the pinching activity.

If you have additional questions concerning garden mums free assistance is available M – F, 8:30am – 4:00pm from the Master Gardeners at 214-904-3053. NOW is a good time to plant garden mums.

When is it time to apply a pre-emergent for winter weeds and what do you recommend? – D. H.

Sept. of each year.

Look for products labeled to control the specific cool/cold season weeds you wish to target. Apply according to label directions.

Dale's Texas Gardening Notes:

Now is the time to have your soil analyzed professionally. This is easily accomplished through the Soil Testing Lab of Texas Cooperative Extension. Send a long self-addressed envelope with two 1st class stamps on it to Soil Test Kit, 10056 Marsh Lane, Suite B-101, Dallas, TX 75229.

Wait until night time temperatures are 80 degrees F or less and nights are 10 degrees cooler for two weeks or more before planting pansies and NOW should be a good time.

Fall is the very best time to plant shade trees and winter hardy shrubs in Texas landscapes.

Do not bag leaves this fall and send them to the landfill. Do use as a mulch and or compost them.

When perennials die back this season remove their top growth and add to a compost.

Purchase spring blooming "bulbs" as desired in person to insure the very best selections. This activity provides you a method to personally select quality individual bulbs. Do not plant until late Nov./early Dec.

For year round color from a shrub plant one or more varieties of Nandina, an old-fashioned landscape favorite. My favorite variety is 'Firepower'.

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist-Dallas County, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University System, Native Texan, Author, Columnist, Radio/TV Host is known state wide as The Plant Groom™. Send your questions to Dale at dalegroom@mycvc.net.

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